Support Office for Consensus Building, Civil Peace, and Constitutional Strengthening
Project 00085494

General Information

Short Title: Common Space Initiative
UNDP Programme/Portfolio: Governance
Geographic Coverage: Lebanon
Project Status: Ongoing
Start Date: 01 July 2013
Expected End Date: 30 June 2018
Implementing Agency: UNDP (Direct Execution) (UNDP)
Last Updated: 08 September 2014

Contact Information

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Donors & Budget

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Target Groups /Beneficiaries

- Academia
- Government of Lebanon
- Lebanese Youth
- Political Parties
- Public Administration
- Public at large
- Public institutions
- Research institutions
- Women

Project Details

Background
The aim of this project is to support consensus building, sustainable civil peace, constitutional strengthening and stakeholder dialogues in Lebanon and in the RBAS region. This support will be provided through technical assistance, technical information and shared knowledge resources, collective and action research, common meeting spaces for stakeholders, facilitation expertise and other essential resources.
Support will be available to all national concerned parties and stakeholders, including relevant government ministries, political parties and civil society organizations, and structures and institutions responsible for political and constitutional reforms.

Achievements & Expected Results
Supported the organization of dialogue sessions, roundtables, workshops, reconciliation processes and consensus building initiatives in Lebanon and the Region.
• Provided technical assistance, technical information, shared knowledge resources and language services to structures, mechanisms and committees of the various national dialogues (formal National Dialogue table, Parliament, and Government) on implementation mechanisms, processes, initiatives and comparative experiences.
• Consulted closely with parliamentary committees, implementing institutions, civil society, government, and political parties on political and constitutional reforms.
• Organized roundtables and regular dialogue forums on Political Reform, Judiciary Reform, Socio-Economic Reform
• Provided facilitation support to all dialogue sessions
• Developed policy related research papers and draft laws and commissioned research papers externally.
• Provided on-going strategic facilitation roadmaps, mappings, charts and informative graphics to concerned parties
• Compiled bibliographies and narrative chronologies on all knowledge materials related to political and constitutional reforms and publish them on website and lib-guides for concerned parties and wider public
• Created the library guides platform for each of the dialogue platforms and maintained them on a regular basis.
• Updated and maintained website on regular basis
• Established common language dictionaries
• Developed and maintained databases for each of the reform and safety net areas...
• Expanded library resources
• Organized workshops and exchange of knowledge roundtables with partner institutions
• Translated and edited internally and externally produced materials (studies, research, reports, and articles).
• Commissioned case studies and research papers on comparative learning and experiences.
• Organized peer to peer exchanges to share facilitation support and deadlock breaking mechanisms; joint learning experiences, in Lebanon and the region.
• Organized 1st annual “practice to theory” conference for a wider reflection and discussion on the peer to peer exchanges.
• Created a platform for interactive learning and shared knowledge database between all participants, processes and institutions involved in the Practice to Theory initiative.

**Issues & Difficulties**
Uncertainty on mobilization of funds and support from the donor community.
• Because of the complexity of the Lebanese conflict, and the failure of previous attempts, there are difficulties in succeeding on reaching an agreement to engage in dialogue or to agree on the dialogue agenda to get out of the deadlock.
• Later, during the implementation phase, there is a risk to face a slow dialogue process and a possibility of discontinuing the process.
• Skepticism regarding the project and a perception that the nature of the project is political.
• The UNDP project might be seen as getting closely involved in the political actions of the formal and non-formal dialogues.